

September 20, 2010

Funding Includes \$1,372,000 Grant and \$1,058,000 Low Interest Loan

Once Completed, Will Provide Increased Access to Clean Drinking Water

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the Town of Cortlandville has received \$2,430,000 in funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill) to extend public water services to residents currently served by individual wells. The funding includes a \$1,372,000 grant and \$1,058,000 low interest federal loan.

"Access to clean drinking water is a right and a necessity," **said Arcuri**. "But many of our rural communities simply do not have access to the funding necessary to make desperately needed improvements to their aging water infrastructure. This is a great example of how the Recovery Bill is helping to rebuild our region by investing millions of dollars to help a community like Cortlandville extend public water services to residents who currently do not have access."

"The Town of Cortlandville appreciates all of the efforts made by Congressman Arcuri's office to facilitate a meeting with USDA on the funding of this project," **said Richard Tupper, Town Supervisor, Cortlandville**. "We understand that this was the last of the available stimulus money and with the help of Congressman Arcuri, the USDA was able to allocate some leftover funds to complete this project, which had already gone to bid. It will make a huge difference for our community and we are very pleased."

Currently, a number of residents in the Town of Cortlandville rely on private, individual groundwater wells to meet their water needs. The wells are reported to yield water of poor quantity and quality. Additionally, in this area there are no fire hydrants available for use by the fire department. This project will extend public water services to these currently unserved areas.

The Town of Cortlandville initially received a project funding estimate, called a preliminary eligibility determination (PED), issued by USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program. However, because applications for Recovery Bill funds greatly exceeded the total amount of funds available, the Cortlandville project and several others had been informed that funds were unlikely to be available this year.

On June 24, 2010 Arcuri hosted a meeting with officials at USDA Rural Development to inform communities, like Cortlandville, about Recovery Bill project eligibility and the funding process going forward. At this meeting, USDA agreed to reevaluate a number of unfunded projects and prioritize them for any remaining Recovery Bill funds.

This Recovery Bill funding was administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program, which provides loans and grants to ensure that necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas.

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